UNITED
NATIONS

TD

United Nations
Conference
on Trade and
Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/41(2)/13
20 March 1995

Original : ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Forty-first session
Second part
Geneva, 20 March 1995

FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE CHAIRMEN/COORDINATORS OF THE GROUP OF 77 CHAPTERS

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

At the request of H.E. Ambssador Guillermo Alberto Gonzalez, Chairman of the Group of 77 in Geneva and in accordance with the decision of the Board at its 855th plenary meeting on 20 March 1995, the attached Final Communique of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Chairmen/Coordinators of the Group of 77 Chapters, held in Geneva on 14 to 15 March 1995, is being circulated as a special document of the Board.

GE.95-50878

Final Commuique

Meeting under the chairmanship of Ambassador Felipe Mabilangan, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations and Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York, the Chairmen/Coordinators of the Chapters of the Group of 77 in Geneva, Nairobi, New York, Paris, Rome, Vienna and Washington D.C. adopted, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the following communique:

1. We wish to underline the important role that the Group of 77 has played in strengthening international cooperation for development and we continue to subscribe to the spirit, goals, objectives and principles incorporated in the joint declaration adopted by the Group of 77 in Geneva on 15 June 1964. We also uphold the declaration adopted by the Special Ministerial Meeting commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Founding of the Group of 77 held in New York on 24 June 1994.

2. In reaffirming our commitment to the objectives of the Group of 77, we restate our determination to strengthen South-South cooperation in accordance with the provisions of the Caracas Programme of Action and to strengthen North-South cooperation in accordance with the Charter of Algiers.

3. In this connection we underline the relevance of the decisions taken by the 17th meeting of Chairmen/Coordinators of the Group of 77 in New York, which are aimed at strengthening the institutional effectiveness of the Group of 77. Similarly, we recall the decision of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing countries (IFCC) on this matter. We are firmly committed to achieving greater collaboration between the chapters and to ensuring that our coordination is action-oriented for the mutual benefit of all developing countries.

4. We call for the support of developed countries in the implementation and follow-up of decisions and recommendations set forth in the Programmes of Action adopted in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the Global Conference on Small Islands Developing States in Barbados in 1994, the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in September 1994, the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in March 1995; and we attach high priority to the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September 1995, HABITAT II to be held in Istanbul in 1996, and UNCTAD IX to be held in Africa in 1996.

5. We are concerned that, in redefining the basis of international economic cooperation, the use of new concepts such as "sustainable human development" and "human security" provide scope for introducing new conditionalities and intrusiveness in the domestic policies of developing countries.

We emphasize the urgent need for a substantial expansion in official development assistance (ODA) and urge developed countries to honour their commitments in allocating 0.7 per cent of their GNP, as called for in the United Nations International Development Strategy, various resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, the provisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and other relevant international agreements.

6. We reiterate the high priority that developing countries attach to the Agenda for Development, which should be based on the fundamental right to development and the recognition that development is also an indispensable prerequisite for peace. The Agenda should take into account the priorities of the developing countries, including, inter alia, those relating to financing development, industry, trade, education, culture, information, science and the transfer of technology. It should

recognize that economic growth and development in developing countries are of mutual interest for developing as well as developed countries for the strengthening of the global economy. To that end, it should in particular seek to promote effective implementation of the existing commitments and agreements in the field of international economic and social cooperation including development of human resources.

7. We emphasize the importance we attach to ensuring that the United Nations system plays a greater role in the field of development by enabling both UNCTAD and specialized agencies including UNIDO to continue to play their full role as essential focal points in the United Nations system for the trade and development, food and agriculture, and industrial development of developing countries. We express our firm determination to oppose any attempt to weaken or undermine these two organizations' contribution to development and call for renewed efforts to strengthen and reinvigorate these two organizations, which have always served the development objectives of developing countries.

8. We stress our belief in the role and relevance of UNCTAD which have been confirmed by recent developments in the world economy and institutional change, including the creation of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which reinforce the need for a policy-oriented trade forum with strong development perspective such as UNCTAD. Consequently, we reaffirm the strong commitment of the members of the Group of 77 to the strengthening of UNCTAD, including the provision of adequate resources, and look forward to UNCTAD IX as a further important step towards global development.

9. We stress further the need for more effective measures and innovative strategies for external debt reduction and alleviating the debt-servicing burden of developing countries, including cancellation of such debt. We likewise express concern that reverse transfer of resources on this account impairs the process of growth and development of developing countries.

10. We reiterate our support for the follow-up process of the Rio Conference, particularly for Agenda 21 and the Conventions on Biodiversity, Desertification and Climate Change, and call upon developed countries and the United Nations system to fulfil their commitments pertaining to poverty eradication, provision of new and additional financial resources and transfer of technology in order to enable developing countries to fulfil their obligations under Rio agreements. We call for greater coordination among the various international organizations dealing with environment and development and a more positive response to the development and environmental concerns of the developing countries.

11. We reaffirm the need for a constructive dialogue between the North and the South as an instrument for the promotion of the economic growth and development of developing countries. We stress that such a dialogue should be conducted on the basis of an economic imperative of mutuality of interests and benefits and genuine interdependence.

12. We reaffirm our commitment to South-South cooperation as a necessary and viable strategy for greater collective self-reliance for national, regional and global development, and as a major mechanism for the promotion of growth and accelerated development including human resource development, and affirm the importance of holding the ninth session of IFCC during 1995, and our full support for the convening of a United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in 1997. We also emphasize the importance of a successful outcome of the GSTP negotiations which would serve as a catalyst for increasing trade between developing countries and impact favourably on the world economy as a whole.

13. In making this final communique, we wish to confirm our firm determination and commitment to bring our collaboration to a higher level and to make our coordination action-oriented for the mutual benefit and common interests of the developing countries.

The Chairmen/Coordinators of the Group of 77 Chapters are:

New York:	H.E. Ambassador Felipe Mabilangan (Philippines)
Geneva:	H.E. Ambassador Guillermo Alberto Gonzalez (Colombia)
Nairobi:	H.E. Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel (Pakistan)
Paris:	H.E. Ambassador Nina Sibal (India)
Vienna:	H.E. Ambassador Ali Khalid El Hussein (Sudan)
Rome:	Dr. Adel Aboul-Naga (Egypt)
Washington D.C.:	Governor Willy W. Zapata S. (Guatemala)